

Remarks/Arguments. Remark/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Amended) A method of laser drilling a vibrating workpiece, comprising:
providing a workpiece engaged by a first vibrating frame of a vibrating machine, wherein the workpiece is vibrating substantially in unison with the first vibrating frame;

providing a laser apparatus mounted to a second frame, wherein the second frame [that] is substantially isolated from the vibrating frame and does not vibrate;

providing a spherical focusing lens that is mounted to the first vibrating frame, wherein the spherical focusing lens is vibrating substantially in unison with first vibrating frame;

aligning the laser apparatus and the spherical lens such that a laser beam emitted by the laser is directed through the vibrating lens to a target location on the vibrating workpiece; and,

causing the laser to emit a beam through the spherical lens, wherein the beam strikes the vibrating workpiece at the target location.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the laser comprises an Nd-Yag laser.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the workpiece comprises a surgical needle.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the laser beam is pulsed.
5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the workpiece is mounted to a fixture which is mounted to the first vibrating [machine] frame, wherein the fixture vibrates substantially in unison with the first vibrating frame.
6. (Amended) An apparatus for laser drilling a vibrating workpiece, comprising:

a workpiece mounted to a first vibrating frame;

a laser apparatus mounted to a second frame, wherein the second frame is substantially isolated from the vibrating frame and is substantially non-vibrating; and,

a spherical focusing lens mounted to the first vibrating frame for directing a laser beam emitted by the laser to a target site on the workpiece, such that the lens vibrates substantially in unison with the first vibrating frame.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the laser comprises an Nd-Yag laser.
8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the workpiece comprises a surgical needle.